

# vision2026

Sustainable Community Strategy

**COMMUNITY  
VIEWS**

# Forward / introduction: **Vision2026**

Our latest Community Plan set out our key issues and goals for the Borough towards 2010.

**“A place where people matter and you can afford to live the life you want”**

Working in partnership, a great deal has already been achieved, but we know there is still more to do. For this reason we are now developing a new **Sustainable Communities Strategy**. This will build on our community plan – but we hope – will be more challenging and will reflect the contributions of a much wider range of partners and communities.

This new strategy will be the basis for our long term ambitions – it will also form the starting point for a range of boroughwide and local action plans.

In order to get this going we’ve been talking to people about the kind of place they want to live in 2026. In particular we’ve chatted with lots of babies and their parents and friends.

**We want our new SCS to reflect local people views and feelings as well as recognising the firm evidence of local needs.**

## **2008 - 2026**

*In this day and age, no one person or organisation can solve all our problems or achieve all our aspirations. But if we all work to the same plan in partnership – individuals, groups, council, public and private sector – then everything becomes possible.*

*The SCS offers a single working document – a ‘blueprint’ or ‘roadmap’ – which consolidates all the issues and allows us to work to a coherent strategy.*

**Leader / LSP Board**

**Other partners**

**(Photographs)**

# **Wigan Borough: VISION2026**

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## **vision2026**

**vision2026** forms the core part of our new Sustainable Community Strategy. It has been developed to help us create and capture the long term vision and aspirations of people for the future of the borough.

### **Summary:**

We wanted to hear from local people about the kind of ideas they had for what kind of place they wanted to be in 2026. We decided that one way of doing this might be to speak with parents and families of new babies – those who would turn 18 in 2026. We invited babies born this year (well their families, friends, neighbours and others) to have a conversation with us about the kind of place they want Wigan to be when babies born this year become adults in 2026.

Sessions were held all across the borough with a wide range of people. These fun and informal sessions, enabled people to join in creative conversations – sharing their individual thoughts and ambitions and their personal aspirations and hopes. We wanted to know what people thought about the borough - and all its parts - what it should be like in the future so we can all work in partnership together to make that vision a reality.

We focused on 6 key areas of conversation;

- **Relationships & Community**
- **Health & Happiness**
- **Leisure**
- **Work & Education**
- **Money & Home**
- **Travel & Environment**

We also ran an online survey to give opportunities for others to join us in the discussions about 2026. The survey prompted a different kind of response from the discussion sessions - participants although focusing around the six key areas listed above, confirmed the importance of family and friends, ambition and hope for the future as being most important for 18yr olds in 2026.

## vision2026: What people said...

### What do you value most about where you live - and more widely in the Borough?

- Lots of young families (due to new housing estates). People with same views, ideas
- Lost of things to do that are free, lots more choice than there used to be.

### What are the good things that make it what it is? What gives it life?

- Shops, new deli, better quality and improved market days (although not like it used to be) – Friendly people.



### What works well around here?

- Sure start centres “one of the best things they have done”

### What do you feel proud of?

- Park near Stubshaw Cross is really good - could do with more
- nice atmosphere – personal, community spirit

What are the 3 most telling or important things from all that you've said and heard today (including any images or objects you'd like to share)?

What are your 3 biggest wishes?

### 3 WISHES

- 1) Work less – more family / leisure time (but for the same money)
- 2) More affordable housing
- 3) Stronger friendships (for life)/ stronger community links



### 3 WISHES

- 1) Food - healthy food made cheaper than unhealthy food
- 2) Less pressure to have 'material things' – priorities to spend time with family rather than providing for them – encourage flexible working in all jobs at all levels.
- 3) Communication and publicity of what is 'out there'. Collating and keeping information up to date in one place. Notice boards, web. One central contact that all groups feed into and keep up to date (improved parks)

## MORE WISHES....

- I want Wigan 2026 to have less social exclusion
- Would like the job situation to be better
- Opportunities and good prospects for our young people
- Attaining a university education within the Wigan borough
- A community that is cohesive, forward thinking and supportive
- A great and cultural place for my children to become adults in
- Everyone to have the opportunity to reach full potential
- Somewhere that provides excellent resources for families
- I want Wigan to be vibrant, forward thinking and safe



Now bring your mind back to today, 2008, where we can start making the dream come true. What 3 actions should we take to make that 18<sup>th</sup> birthday a celebration for us all to be proud of?

## 3 ACTIONS

“Less pressure to have ‘material things’ – priorities to spend time with family rather than providing for them – encourage flexible working in all jobs at all levels”

“Children need to be taught about money, – lessons in school – credit crunch. Need to be taught about saving, getting into work, not living on the dole. More apprenticeships available”

“Communication and publicity of what is ‘out there’. Collating and keeping information up to date in one place. Notice boards, web. One central contact that all groups feed into and keep up to date (improved parks)”

*“Need a community support worker like PCSO who knocks on doors and asks how you’re doing”*

*“Freestyle cards are a good idea”* but 19 year olds need their own base or room – something like Bolton Youth girls and lads club”

“Big employers need to invest in the community”

“...would like to see a vast improvement in education as I think this is a downfall in the area”



## **VISION2026: Comments and views from local people: What people said....(web site and surveys)**

### **Relationships and Community**

Kids dancing around, share with neighbours, still working

Children with friends they have had a long time

Possibly be grandparents

Have time for each other - more time off to see people

More integrated (less insular) "put the jigsaw puzzle together"

Better with more welcoming communities and social links (*"We'll need to train people to be "the welcoming committee"*)

Churches or some other Forums will grow

I want my daughter to be proud of her town because it's a clean and friendly place to live

Driven by pride and activity at a community level

Neighbourhood by neighbourhood owning a problem - solving the issues that are presented with the support of the various public and voluntary organisations

Creating a myriad of opportunities and facilities and initiatives, social, recreational, educational, mental and spiritual for themselves and their neighbours. But between each neighbourhood level being able to join up with others and face outwards to contribute to the larger agenda and series of borough, regional, national and global challenges

I want Wigan in 2026 to have less social exclusion, to have more affordable housing in central locations, better transport links, including better planning so fewer traffic bottlenecks.

Wigan to be Christian, have good morals, and respect for oneself and others. Closure of the many drinking dens and a return to family values. Respect for marriage and family - basically pre second world war values - not the selfish throwaway society we have at the moment.

A place where people feel safe to live. A place where there are opportunities and good prospects for young people. Excellent education, low unemployment, good job opportunities.

I want to feel safe in the thought that my daughter can go out in her community without the threat of serious harm from other people. This is a vision that would be attainable if certain aspects of life were addressed i.e. drug/alcohol misuse that is a big factor in crime.

It's hard to imagine what Wigan will be like in eighteen years time hopefully it will be a better place with better education and a good selection of jobs and better housing. I hope there is less anti social behaviour and drugs on the street. I hope Wigan will be a great and cultural place for my children to become adults and become the people they want to be and achieve all their dreams and them to be very happy and have wonderful lives.

I would want older people to feel valued and respected and for everyone in our communities to have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Still a place that is known for its heritage and culture but also forward thinking and modern

I hope Wigan will be a happy place to live, with a good social network. Pollution will be low and that our children will be given all the support and encouragement that is needed so that they reach their potential.

I would want Wigan to be vibrant, forward thinking and safe. A place where people have a sense of community and respect their environment. A place where the rights of law abiding citizens and vulnerable people are valued above budget.

I hope that the Borough will be a safe and happy place for eighteen year olds to live. I would like them to respect others and also to be respected. I think it is important to believe that they could walk the streets without fear of being attacked or injured on the streets. To achieve this I think that more needs to be done to encourage children to take up activities and attend groups etc. At the moment, I feel the streets are full of youngsters who have nowhere else to go and nothing better to do.

## **Health and Happiness**

I want my daughter to be able to think about the future positively, and not have to worry at just eighteen about being able to afford somewhere to live or basics such as food and that she doesn't have to go out to work too soon

Thriving, building on the sporting success in the borough and having lots of local community groups and festivals to bring people together

Not happy being older

Not smoking (hopefully)

Drinking age may change (maybe go up to 21)

A safe, friendly healthy place with no anti-social behaviour with lots of safe areas for children

## **Leisure**

The community would be good if more leisure groups were up and running for adults as well as children.

There should be more youth clubs and less under age drinking.

Wigan borough should have good leisure facilities with lots of park, countryside and green spaces.

Social life to not be mainly attracted to pubs/clubs of Wigan other leisure social activities for 18 year olds.

Doing things as a family - enjoying company - even if 18

Using venues better, using web to find out what is going on locally - approaching people more  
Places nearby for people to have family parties / children's parties

Transitional 'at home' parties would be better although realistically it will probably be more commercial

Socialising at home or in communities, rather than in pubs

I want it to be a safe place for my daughter to walk around in: I want her to be able to enjoy a night out with her friends without the risk of being attacked

## **Work and Education**

I want my daughter to be able to follow whatever path of education she chooses without limit because of cost or stigma of choosing a vocational option.

I would like the job situation to be better, wages higher and childcare much cheaper

Better education about saving for the future and also better education about the dangers of alcohol

I would like my child to feel safe in her education place, bullying to be tackled stronger

I would like my daughter to enjoy her education and be able to attain a university education within the Wigan borough

A safe, friendly, healthy place with no anti social behaviour, with lots of safe areas for children and young people, where schools educate all children and do not exclude pupils

Excellent education and industries so that people can work flexibly and have career opportunities

I would also like to see a vast improvement in education as I think this is a downfall in the area

18 year olds hopefully still in education - want cost of this to be low - so everyone can afford

Voluntary work - or work part-time

## **Money and Home**

Some / most working (not all - I retired) looking after grandchildren

People value people more rather than things

It would be good if crime was an all time low, housing was affordable but the neighbours would be decent too

I would want Wigan Borough to be an affordable and safe place to bring up a family. Somewhere you are proud to live and happy to stay living in. Somewhere that provides excellent resources for families, children and older people, with fantastic schools and health services.

Low crime rates and people feeling safe and well - the inequality gap to be narrowed

Extended houses rather than moving - families all back together - 18 year old will still be living at home

More ways of voicing concerns & easier access to actions/getting things done

## **Travel and the Environment**

In 2026 I would like Wigan Borough to be a friendlier place with lots of open outdoor areas such as parks, nature trails etc.

A place where it is easy to communicate within, where education and life long learning are important. A community that is cohesive, forward thinking and supportive.

To have better recycling facilities

Public transport improved - correct routes and be cost effective

Recycling should be more and in the future it will be more 'the norm' as they will grow up with it

Parks and open spaces will be bigger and better

Local area will be improved

Look after what we've got - no longer a "throw away" society

Being green is easier & simpler from your home

Look after things / no derelict buildings/rows of shops run down house

## **What are our local issues / local needs?**

**Having asked people what they wanted the future to look like – we then looked at a wide range of other information and views about the kinds of issues and problems that are important to local people.**

- We could make more of local heritage e.g. mining - opportunity to have fresh look at industrial heritage sites/
- We need names - culture & they need to be supported
- More investment in parks/public spaces e.g. comparison with international cities
- Not just pubs & clubs
- We could learn from these examples and create space for families/broaden community
- Give people more support to do things in your own area
- Community membership of local area - assistance to get things done - not just about money - help to give confidence to get things moving - money is important to